

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE IF AND  
HOW OTHER STATES REGULATE TOUR OPERATORS WITHIN THEIR  
JURISDICTION.

1 WHEREAS, tourism, which accounted for twenty one percent of  
2 the state economy in 2013, is the largest single contributor to  
3 Hawaii's gross domestic product; and  
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5 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to ensure  
6 the safety of all residents and visitors; and  
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently does not regulate the activities  
9 of tour and excursion groups soliciting residents or visitors;  
10 and  
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12 WHEREAS, there has been a rise in tour activity in state  
13 parks despite the closure of Sacred Falls State Park in 1999 due  
14 to a rockslide and resulting deaths; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in December 2014, two tour guides were charged for  
17 prohibited entry into closed areas within the Wao Kele O Puna  
18 Forest Reserve and the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve and for  
19 engaging in illegal commercial activities on state-managed  
20 lands, including leading so-called "lava tours"; and  
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22 WHEREAS, in February 2015, another tour guide was charged  
23 with trespassing, reckless endangering, and conducting illegal  
24 commercial activities in a natural area reserve for leading a  
25 "lava tour" group in the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve in  
26 Pahoehoe-Puna; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
29 imposes a fine of up to \$5,000 for a first offense of entry into  
30 closed public lands; now, therefore,  
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## S.R. NO. 99

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
 3 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to examine if  
 4 and how other states regulate tour operators within their  
 5 jurisdiction; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the examination include a  
 8 review of the laws, policies, and procedures adopted by other  
 9 states to regulate tour operators, if any; and

10  
 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
 12 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
 13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 15 the Regular Session of 2016; and

16  
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative  
 19 Reference Bureau.  
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 21  
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OFFERED BY:

*Angela & Bob*  
*Quadrone Sam*  
*Doreen Harris*  
*Jim*

*John Lee*  
*John Lee*  
*John Lee*  
*Donna*  
*Donna*  
*Donna*  
*Donna*  
*Donna*  
*Donna*

